

2006 Local Accomplishments

AID FOR TOWNS IN THE 14TH SENATE DISTRICT

A very important part of my job representing the people of the 14th state Senate District is ensuring Milford, Orange and West Haven receive their fair share of state funding. I am pleased to report the following grants and reimbursements from the state:

Total Education Grants	\$48,926,615
Extra 2006 Property Tax Relief	\$841,943
Town Aid Road Fund (TAR)	\$775,318
Mashantucket Pequot/Mohegan Grants	\$1,524,264
Local Capital Improvements (LoCIP)	\$1,040,081
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$2,315,679
Total Statutory Formula Grants	\$55,423,900

This funding is an increase of **\$1,363,900** over last year's total

Make no mistake about it, securing large increases in state aid for our schools and towns, creating jobs, fighting to improve transportation and making health care more affordable are very important, and it takes up much of the time I spend in Hartford.



However, I would also like to take a moment to tell you about some grants I helped secure that make our community a better place to work, live and raise a family.

- **\$225,000 for construction of playgrounds in Orange.** \$75,000 for the Turkey Hill School playground and \$150,000 for the Mary L. Tracy School playground and rubber playscape surface (featured in the photo above).
- **\$100,000 for West Haven.** These funds are for various improvements to the Pop Warner football park.
- **\$104,800 for Platt Technical High School in Milford.** These funds include \$30,000 for improvements to the school and \$74,000 for the purchase of new milling machines.

With the help of an increasing budget surplus, we were able to make many improvements to our existing FY '07 budget. And importantly, we were able to pass this budget on time and with bipartisan support. We wisely used state resources to make significant investments in programs beneficial to the health, safety and education of Connecticut's residents. In addition, we are funding a cutting-edge economy that creates the kind of jobs needed to keep Connecticut vibrant.



We increased aid to cities and towns by \$60 million to help keep local property taxes down; saved over \$350 million in the Rainy Day Fund; and fully funded the state Teachers' Retirement Fund in both FY '06 and FY '07 from the state surplus. Finally, one of our greatest achievements in this budget was to fight any effort to repeal the current property tax credit on the state income tax. In fact, we successfully fought to increase the car and property tax credit from \$400 to \$500.

A Message to My Constituents



Dear Neighbors,

It is an honor and a privilege to represent you in our state legislature. Over the past two years we have made great strides in creating a climate for jobs in our state, improving the quality of our health care system, fixing our broken transportation system and supporting the brave men and women who serve in our armed forces.

I am pleased that a bipartisan budget was adopted that provides tax relief on automobiles, real estate and businesses while returning money to cities and towns to help hold down local property taxes. This includes an increase—from \$400 to \$500—on the state property tax credit.

As always, I love to hear from you. Please let me know if you have questions or concerns.

With warm regards,


Gayle Slossberg
State Senator, 14th District

Stay Informed...

For the latest information on the issues affecting our district, please visit my Web site: www.senatedems.ct.gov/Slossberg.html



TO RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION on any of the following issues, fill out this form and mail it to me, e-mail or call my office. Make sure to give your name and mailing address and indicate which issues you're interested in. My contact information is on the mailing address panel.

- ☐ Seniors
 ☐ Business
 ☐ Land Use
 ☐ Environment
☐ Crime
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State Senator

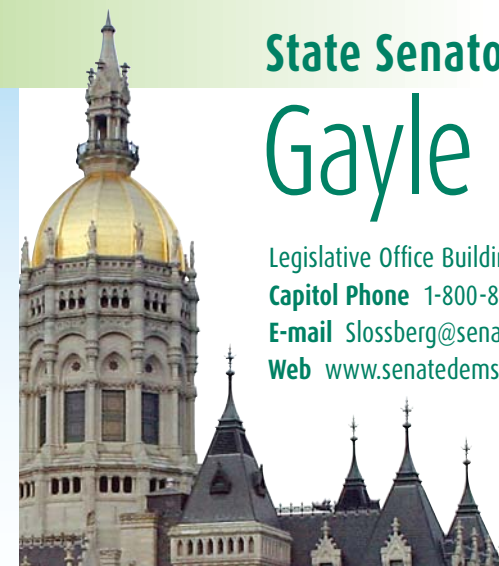
Gayle Slossberg

Legislative Office Building, Room 3000, Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Capitol Phone 1-800-842-1420 **Home Phone** 878-6412

E-mail Slossberg@senatedems.ct.gov

Web www.senatedems.ct.gov/Slossberg.html



I'm proud of what we have accomplished for the people of the 14th state Senate District, which includes the communities of Milford, Orange and West Haven

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CONNECTICUT JOBS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

2006 Legislative Initiatives

A recent study probably shocked the state with the information that since 1991, Connecticut has experienced no net job growth. My Senate Democratic colleagues and I initiated a comprehensive plan to address the need for job growth in order to steer our state toward a brighter future. Our legislative package invests in education, jobs, university/business partnerships, transportation improvements, and the promotion of promising fuel cell technologies that have been developed right here in our own backyard.

Highlights of our successful initiative include:

- I am so proud that the hallmark jobs initiative I have been championing was embraced by the governor and became law this year. To qualifying businesses, it gives tax credits of up to 25% of the state income tax withholding for companies that create new jobs in Connecticut, or a \$1,500 tax credit to companies that hire certain previously laid off workers.
- **Elimination of the Manufacturing Machinery and Equipment property tax** to attract more manufacturing jobs to Connecticut, especially the cutting-edge, precision manufacturing that is critical to our future economy
- **A Center for Entrepreneurship** that will assist promising technologies—including fuel cells—develop right here in our state
- **Creation of business incubators to help grow the small business ideas** that will fuel our future economy and improve job creation across the state
- **Development Research and Economic Assistance Matching (DREAM) grants** that supplement and increase small businesses' access to federal research grants
- **A Business Advocate's office** to serve as a one-stop contact point for businesses to access government assistance and cut through red tape
- **Encouraging more engineering and doctoral research graduates to stay and work in Connecticut** through a 'Scholar-to-Work' system which ensures that innovation and creativity will remain a hallmark of Connecticut's future in the growing world marketplace
- **Partnerships between local schools and businesses** to help more students master math and science as building blocks to careers in competitive fields
- **Teacher 'externships'** that help link the skills taught in classrooms to those sought by employers, and provide opportunities for students to participate in internship and job-shadow experiences that will help them build relevant job skills
- **Asserting Connecticut's position as a global leader in the fuel-cell industry** by improving clean energy alternatives in ways that grow jobs in this highly skilled sector
- **Promoting nanotechnology**—an industry that works at the molecular level—to establish Connecticut as a leader in developing complex materials sold to businesses around the world



STATE SENATOR GAYLE SLOSSBERG 14TH DISTRICT



I held a press conference at the Hall of Flags in the State Capitol, to advocate for the lowering to half-staff of both the American and state flags in the event a serviceman or woman serving overseas dies while serving in the military.

Working for Connecticut's Future



Improving Benefits for Our Veterans

The debt owed our state's veterans can never be paid in full. During the 2006 session, the legislature

continued to recognize the service of our brave men and women by passing laws aimed at paying part of this debt. They include exempting disability payments from determining eligibility for certain income-based property tax exemptions for veterans, extending the same protections to state service members assigned to state duties as they would be entitled to on federal duty, and expanding the definition of veteran to include reservists and National Guardsmen.

Birth Certificates for Adoptees

Adoption can provide children with enormous opportunities. But, historically, many adopted children have grown up without knowing who they really are. A bill was designed to provide a greater sense of identity to adoptees: all children adopted after October 1, 2006 would have had access to their original birth certificates when they turned 21. This measure could have provided them with useful medical information. This bill was vetoed by the governor.

Mandatory Minimum Sentences for Sexual Assault

There must be zero tolerance for sexual predators who prey on our children. The state Senate passed a bill this session that would have toughened the laws

against these dangerous individuals. This bill would have increased the minimum mandatory sentence to 25 years in prison for first degree sexual assault against children and locked these criminals away for life if twice convicted of assaulting someone under the age of 13. Also, this legislation would have created a minimum 25 year sentence for someone promoting the prostitution of someone under the age of 13. Unfortunately, this bill was not enacted into law.

Hospital-Acquired Infections

We have all heard about people who went into hospitals to get better, but unfortunately developed infections after being admitted. A new law will create a reporting system, providing the public with necessary information to compare infection rates at health care facilities in Connecticut. The system may also provide information about methods used to prevent the spread of infection. Beginning October 2008, this information will be published on a state Web site.

Taking a Stand Against Underage Drinking

House parties pose a significant risk to our young people who consume alcohol on private property. The General Assembly passed a new law that makes it a crime to knowingly allow underage drinking on your private property or to do nothing to stop such activity. This legislation also extends the law prohibiting the possession of alcohol by a minor on public property to all private property as well.

Lung Cancer Awareness and Umbilical Cord Blood

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death for both men and women. A new law designates November as Lung Cancer Awareness Month to increase public awareness about lung cancer and its associated risk factors. The law also establishes a committee to examine the possibility of Connecticut establishing a public umbilical cord blood bank. Umbilical cord blood holds great promise for treating and possibly curing diseases.



Energy Efficiency

To help residents with energy costs, last October we exempted certain weatherization products—such as insulation,

programmable thermostats, and energy-efficient furnaces and boilers—from the state sales tax. This session, we extended the exemption until June 30, 2007. We will also require certain state construction projects to meet stricter energy and environmental standards. This will help save state taxpayers money while promoting energy efficiency.

Campaign Finance Reform and Ethics

We continued to strengthen our ethics laws in response to unprecedented corruption that occurred in our state. Legislation this year prohibits a governor's spouse from receiving honoraria and bans a governor from lobbying the state for at least one year after leaving office. We also continued to improve our strongest-in-the-nation campaign finance reform legislation by

protecting the system's integrity in the event of a court challenge and further limiting political action committees (PACs).

Roadmap to Connecticut's Economic Future

Understanding that a solid transportation infrastructure is critical to job creation, the General Assembly did not stop with last year's \$1.3 billion in transportation investments for Metro North and major improvements to I-95. This year, the legislature authorized another \$1 billion in projects that will help build the transportation future of our entire state. In addition to creating new mass transit options in the New Haven to Springfield corridor and in southeastern Connecticut, this bill authorizes:

- Creation of both a West Haven and Orange rail station on the New Haven Line
- The accelerated purchase of new Metro North rail cars so that these rail cars can be purchased as fast as the supplier can build them
- \$60 million to be invested in new rail stations and new parking facilities along the New Haven Line and Shoreline East
- \$45 million in new investments on the branch lines, including improved service on the Danbury Line